

**HEUVELIN,
CENTRAL HAUL CENTER**

DEC 22 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of) Examiner Janelle Combs Morillo
Venema et al)
Serial No. 10/706,846) Group Art Unit 1742
Confirmation No. 6084) Atty. Docket # 4430-031234 (03-1257)
Filed 11/12/2003)
For METHOD OF MANUFACTURING December 21, 2005
A NEAR-NET SHAPE ALLOY
PRODUCT)

Rule 1.131 Declaration

I, Jeffrey J. Witters, an employee of ALCOA, declare and state:

- (1) The invention described in the above referenced patent application was invented by myself and other ALCOA personnel prior to February 13, 2003.
 - (2) United States Patent Application 2004/0182483 by Heymes et al. was cited against the present application in an Office Action dated August 25, 2005.
 - (3) The priority date for the Heymes application is based on the United States Provisional Patent Application having serial number 60/446,993 filed on February 13, 2003.